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***Iran:
Majles Sessions***

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IRAN: *Majles Sessions*

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

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[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in an open session yesterday chaired by 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri after a recess of several days. The deputies from the cities of Saveh, Bushehr, and Kenareh and Marvdasht spoke. During a speech the speaker of the Majles expressed thanks for the presence of millions of Muslim people of Iran for the 22 Bahman [11 February] observances. Elsewhere in his talk he condemned the crimes of the aggressor Serbs. The full text of the Majles speaker's remarks was published in yesterday's newspaper. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Weekly Agenda for Majles Commissions

Printed below are the agendas for the weekly meetings of the Majles commissions from Saturday through the end of the current week, the most important of which are printed for our esteemed readers.

Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission

Study of the notes in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] National Budget and the deputy recommendations.

Plan and Budget Commission

The general form of the 1373 budget (second consultation)

Joint meetings with various commissions.

Mines and Industries Commission

Study of the credits of the industrial ministries.

Judicial and Legislative Affairs Commission

Study of the bill to add Iran to the Human Rights Commission.

Articles 88 and 90 Commission

Question from the deputies from Rasht and Langrud to the minister of agriculture.

Mohammad Nabovati, Deputy From Sari [as published]

There is no doubt that the path to deliverance from economic problems is to increase production and reduce consumption.

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Nabovati, deputy from Saveh. [passages omitted on Islam and accomplishments of the revolution]

Today thanks to the Islamic revolution, infrastructure investments have gone into operation one after the

other. An example of this, which was inaugurated by the president of the republic during the Ten Days Dawn celebration, is the great Arak petrochemical complex. He cited this unit as one of the fruits of the revolution. He said: To expedite the attainment of a strong and powerful economy, attention must be given to the following:

1. the nation's financial and monetary system must be changed. The taxation system and related systems must be reformed quickly so that in the implementation of social justice they will obtain the government's true rights with a proper mechanism.

2. The nation's planning must be done in such a way that the following are observed:

(a) The possibility of cutting dependence on a one-product economy will be created.

(b) Semicomplete capacities for making best use of national capital will be completed with the necessary speed.

(j) In raising technical knowledge and training skilled manpower, the necessary attention must be given on a broad scale to academic centers and universities.

(d) Because the nation's foreign exchange resources are limited, the best allocations must be made, giving priority to projects that yield a higher return and will go into operation in the shortest time, in order to raise the nation's production capacity quickly. There is no doubt that the path to deliverance from economic problems is to increase production and reduce consumption.

(h) The necessary laws must be passed to provide extensive government protection to investors in the production section, especially in the agriculture sector, and the late Imam (peace be upon him) said this sector was the key to the nation's economic independence. This is because, for many reasons, such as the existence of potential resources and the availability of the needed technology in the country, the agriculture sector uses very little foreign exchange compared to the other economic sectors. On the other hand, its high foreign exchange earnings demands the creation of employment. The volume of investment in this sector must be increased in proportion to its needs.

He explained: Definitely, if necessary and sufficient attention is given to this part of the nation's economy, in the near future we will see growth and prosperity in our nation's economy, and, through the export of agricultural crops, the nation will certainly be liberated from dependence on the one-product oil economy.

3. Because the nation needs a modern administrative system to carry out its long-term programs, the nation's administrative system must be changed and it must be reformed in a way that is appropriate for the programs. In this regard, the government must refrain from getting involved in its executive activities and must concern

itself solely with policy making. Excessive ceremony and administrative bureaucracy must be reduced quickly so that the work will be carried with the required speed. Duplicated organizations must be consolidated quickly and the multiplicity of decisions must be reduced.

4. Supervisory organizations must be strengthened through the use of adequate personnel and experienced experts, so that all government organizations under the supervision of supervisory organizations such as the accounting court, the National Investigation Organization, and the Accounting Organization will be controlled as required.

Nabovati then expressed thanks for the attendance of some officials at the ground-breaking ceremonies for several projects in the municipality of Saveh. He asked for help and cooperation from the minister of energy to complete the Saveh power plant project, from the minister of agriculture for the completion of rivers three and four on the Saveh Plain, from the minister of petroleum and the executive director of the gas company for expediting gas delivery, and from the minister of post, telegraph and telephone for changing the Zaviyeh telephone system.

Mohammad Khajehpur, Deputy From Bushehr

The government must monopolize for itself the proceeds from nonessential goods such as cigarettes, and spend them on development projects.

The second preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Khajehpur, deputy from Bushehr. [passages omitted on martyrs and the revolution]

Continuing, he discussed Note 25 in the 1373 budget. He said: In our economy's current makeup and the uncontrollable market we have, there will be a severe reaction under the influence of various factors, especially psychological factors. The direct inflation caused by price increases, especially energy in various forms, causes price increases. If steps are not taken before any kind of measure to control prices, in these inflationary conditions any kind of price increase for any kind of good will cause this increase to multiply, and the ultimate inflation in society will be greater than anticipated or imaginable.

Continuing, he added: For reducing rising consumption and economizing in the structures of the nation's energy consumption model, the main expectations must be met through the reduction of energy consumption in the behavior patterns of consumers. On the other hand, increased profitability and decreased energy consumption in energy producing and marketing systems must also be taken into account. With regard to nonessential goods such as cigarettes, the deputy from Bushehr said: Such an item must be under government monopoly. The restraining import taxes placed on that item, which will entail significant revenues for the government, must be spent on the nation's essential and development projects.

Concerning his electoral district, Khajehpur said: Little attention has been paid to infrastructure affairs in my electoral district, especially with regard to land and air routes. Special attention was given to this for the trip to the province of Bushehr by the respected president of the republic, and steps have already been taken that must be pursued seriously by the officials, so that maximum use will be made of the port capacities created for exports and imports.

He discussed customs at the commercial ports of Gonaveh and Deylam. He said: In view of the low cost of transporting goods by sea, it is appropriate for the respected officials to take rapid steps to make these ports more active, for the only means of livelihood the people have is trade and the shipping of goods. Continuing, the speaker discussed industries in the province of Bushehr. He said: In this region, in view of its specific and potential talents, fisheries, conversion industries and other kinds of industries would be constructive.

Continuing, he asked the National Administrative and Employment Organization to take the appropriate steps concerning the difference in incomes and wage benefits of government workers, in view of the climactic conditions in the region.

At the end of his talk he called for more attention to Khark Island to solve the drinking water, health care and transportation problems.

Jalil Rashidi, Deputy From Marvdasht

The failure to collect the revenues in Note 25 must be made up by economizing in the development budget.

Rashidi, deputy from Marvdasht, was the final preagenda speaker. He thanked the God-seeking nation of Iran for its turnout at the 22 Bahman [11 February] demonstration march. He said: With what words can one express thanks for the turnout of millions of men, women, children, and youths for the affairs of the revolution, unless all the officials serve them with all their power? The officials must not deal arrogantly with the people. We are the servants of the people, and the philosophy of our existence is nothing other than service to the people.

He then added: Today when the expenses of the 1373 budget are being figured and tomorrow when the Second Five-Year Plan will be on the agenda, I declare my profound praise. Today let us carefully control the unnecessary expenses in 40 articles of the nation's current budget and let us prevent the purchases and expenditures for all this equipment, office furniture, repairs and maintenance, numerous domestic and foreign trips, expansion of organizations, new hirings, procurement of administrative papers and publications, conferences, movies and other things. Today let us stand against the ostentation and ceremony that have gradually penetrated our offices.

He explained: In the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] budget we prohibited the purchase of automobiles, but more expensive two-cabin pick-up trucks were purchased, or they hastily bought vehicles at the end of the year.

In any case, the failure to collect the revenues in Note 25 must be made up by economizing on the development budget. It is absolutely incorrect for us to be 10 percent short on the total figure for current expense or development credits. Where are we going? This is the month of the martyrdom of 'Ali (peace be upon him). We consider ourselves followers of that great man. His methods in government and in protecting the public treasury are a reminder for friend and foe. Why does the government act weakly in the dimension of supervision? It is a government that makes all this effort, has made great and unbelievable strides for the development of cities and especially the rural areas, has had all this success carrying out national projects such as numerous dams, railroads and airports, has made striking progress in building factories, especially petrochemical complexes and refineries, has taken effective steps in communications, and has thousands of other projects under way. Why does it not deal severely with violators?

Continuing, the deputy from Marvdasht said: Just as those who make efforts are praised in the sacred Government of the Islamic Republic, those who work little and who violate the rights of the people must be dealt with seriously.

In conclusion he thanked the Interests Discernment Council, the Majles and the chiefs of the three powers, who brought a ray of hope to farmers by forming the three-person councils.

Legislation

Motion To Apply the Landlord-Tenant Relations Law

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the Judicial and Legislative Affairs Commission concerning the Motion To Apply the Landlord-Tenant Relations Law enacted in 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] to the offices of physicians, (returned from the Guardian Council), for which the commission's amendment was approved by the Majles.

Amendment: Article 1: The following paragraph is added as Paragraph J with Note 2 to Article 2 of the Landlord-Tenant Relations Law enacted in 1357:

J - Offices of Physicians

Note 1 - The collection of any kind of funds as a key deposit on rented physician's offices and transfer of the physician's office to another party are prohibited if this is not mentioned in the text of the contract between landlord and tenant.

Note 2 - Using residential sites in places not specified in the contract between landlord and tenant as physician's offices is prohibited, without the consent of the owner.

Amendment to the Motion on Procedures for Punishing Individuals Who Engage in Unauthorized Activities in Audio Visual Affairs

The second item on the agenda was the report from the Judicial and Legislative Affairs Commission Concerning the Motion on Procedures for Punishing Individuals Who Engage in Unauthorized Activities in Audiovisual Affairs (returned from the Council of Guardians), for which the commission's amendment was approved.

Article 1 says that they will be sentenced to the payment of reparations, in addition to imprisonment and cash fines.

In this regard the Council of Guardians opined that "the payment of reparations applies to a time when a loss of rights caused damages under religious law."

Commission's amendment to Article 1: After the phrase "losses caused," the phrase "in a place where the loss of rights caused financial damages" was added.

General Form of Consumer Protection Bill

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Commercial and Distribution Affairs Commission concerning the Consumer Rights Protection Bill, the general form of which was approved by the deputies.

In explanations concerning this motion, the commission expert said: In order to provide government protection for consumers, to guarantee the implementation of standard regulations, to assure that proper procedures are used to market and use goods and to make use of the results of services, and also to confront violations in the marketing of goods and services, to prevent hoarding and price increases, to designate legal regulations for production, distribution, sale and consumption, to establish a suitable system for designating authorities to investigate violations that take place in the marketing of goods and services, and to provide suitable ways to repay damages suffered by consumers, this bill is presented to the Majles.

Likewise, the marketers of goods and services have been prohibited from secrecy in the marketing of their goods and services, as well as any form of collusion to reduce marketing or to lower quality.

Elsewhere in this bill the judiciary was required to allocate one or several branches of the special investigative and court branches to investigate crimes and violations of the provisions of this law.

It is worth mentioning that the Consumer Rights Protection Bill has six sections and 23 articles.

Amendment to the Law To Establish the Iran Communications Company

The final item on the agenda was the report from the second consultation of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Amend

Article 7 of the Law To Establish the Iran Communications Company, continued consideration of which was postponed to the next session.

Majles Notes

Following the approval of the general form of the Consumer Protection Bill in the Majles, Mr. ol-Eshaq, minister of commerce, told our parliamentary correspondent: This bill, which is a positive step towards the protection of the consumer, was approved in its general form by the Majles. Based on this bill, rights are provided to the consumer in various dimensions, such as the right to have correct information, the right to buy proper goods, the prevention of hoarding, the prevention of collusion by some sellers, and also price setting for some goods the government deems to be essential.

Likewise, in this bill the question of commitments by producers, distributors, and importers to the consumer is addressed. They are required to observe the principles of hygiene and standards for goods and if in this regard damages are caused to consumers because of the sale, distribution or production of undesirable goods, the consumer has the right to refer to the competent authorities and receive his rights.

The minister of commerce noted: In this matter the Ministry of Commerce is required to supervise implementation of this law and to defend the rights of consumers.

The minister of commerce was asked, which goods will be subject to price setting? He answered, in this bill specific goods are not designated and this matter will be adjusted according to conditions of time and place.

Commission Enactments

Motion To Amend the Municipal Government Law

In Article 5 of this motion, which was approved by the Joint Commission on Councils and Domestic Affairs and Judicial and Legislative Affairs, taxes on the construction of buildings will be at levels set by the Council of Ministers and the collection by the municipalities of any kind of cash or noncash sums in any form is prohibited. Violations of this article will be subject to the penalties for bribery.

Tax Exemption Bill for Institutions Working in Handicapped Persons Affairs

Based on Article 1 of the above bill, all private institutions that are working on support and rehabilitation of handicapped persons or providing services to the mentally retarded with authorization from the National Health Organization, as well as child care, are exempt from the payment of income tax.

This bill was approved in the Economic Affairs Commission.

Bill To Amend the Law Forming the Iran Communications Company

Under Article 7 of this bill, in carrying out the responsibilities set in this law the company can, using its capital or in participation with the government or nongovernment sector, form institutions in the form of corporations.

This bill was approved in the Employment Affairs Commission.

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri. The deputies from the cities of 'Aliabad-e Katul, Khomeyni Shahr, Qom, Mian-e Do Ab, and Esfahan gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda and one motion and three bills were discussed and studied by the deputies. Likewise, at this session Mostafa Mir Salim was presented to the Majles by the president of the republic as the new head of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance.

Seyyed Javad Hoseyni, Deputy From 'Aliabad-e Katul

As ordered by the exalted leader, the Majles must help the Voice and Vision organization by approving a suitable budget.

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Seyyed Javad Hoseyni, deputy from 'Aliabad-e Katul. During his speech he offered congratulations on the beginning of the 16th springtime of the revolution. He said: On 22 Bahman 1372 [11 February 1993] the just, compassionate, and insightful leader, who is a man of independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence and is aware of the times, issued a decree to defeat the invasion by the enemy and criminal America and to render the Great Satan and its agents hopeless, conferring the honor of the post of chief of the Voice and Vision organization for a period of five years on a prominent academic and cultural leader and a son of the great source of emulation and the son-in-law of Martyr Motahar, who received a medal from the Imam and was from a family of knowledge an action, and also make him a member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council.

He added: No committed official can do such extensive and sensitive work by himself. He needs help. First the Majles, which has committed and specialist deputies, must help the Voice and Vision organization materially and spiritually in this luminous month by approving a suitable budget, as ordered by the exalted leader for the Voice and Vision organization of Islam, which is for the entire country, because the country is associated with the Koran and the people of the house of God, and we also follow them.

The toiling government's services throughout the country have fallen like the rain of mercy and are making the nation's foundations strong and self-sufficient spiritually and materially. They have brought and are bringing hundreds of projects into operation in the cities and villages during the 10 Days of Dawn celebration and at other times. The president of the republic especially, who is a scholar educated in Islam and promoter of education, will render worthy assistance to the Voice and Vision organization so that we can protect ourselves and our children from the crimes and invasions of our enemies.

The deputy from 'Aliabad-e Katul then asked the deputies to enact 100-percent Islamic legislation and he emphasized supervision of the implementation of laws.

He thanked the president of the republic for traveling to the province of Mazandaran. He issued memos to the judicial power to implement divine restrictions in public and to the executive power to issue a decisive order to prevent paper shuffling, disappointing the people, and detaining the people in the administrative offices.

In conclusion, Hoseyni also issued memos to the relevant executive officials concerning the His Holiness Qa'em (may God hasten his joyful advent) Hospital Project, asphaltting the special agricultural road from farm areas to Sarkan, opening telephone service in Fazelabad, installing the antenna at Katul Farm, building a prosecutor's office and a cultural center in the municipality of his electoral district.

Seyyed Mohammad Ahmadi, Deputy From Khomeyni Shahr

Votes must not be cast for any motion or bill that entails increased prices or puts more of a burden or pressure on the people.

The next speaker was Ahmadi, deputy from Khomeyni Shahr. He offered congratulations on the sighting of the crescent moon for the blessed month of Ramazan. Continuing, he added: During this month, the government must provide more means to the people, especially those who are fasting, the guests of God, so they can better fulfill their fasting obligation. The anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution is also a good opportunity to evaluate 15 years of performance, to analyze successes and failures in foreign and domestic policy, to work to revive human and Islamic values, to fight those who oppose values, and to consider what we have done with and for the revolution, and what the revolution has done for us. This anniversary is a good opportunity to understand strengths and weaknesses, reduce weaknesses, and reinforce strengths.

Continuing, he said: I believe that the most dangerous weakness is the gap between the people and the officials and that the best strength is the close and trouble-free tie between the officials and their clients. In this regard, nit-picking, narrow views, harshness, etc., must be

avoided so the people can contact those who are managing affairs with peace of mind and the hope of solving problems.

The speaker then mentioned the following points:

1. America's boundless quest for domination, the massacre of the Muslims of Bosnia, the refusal of international organizations to deal with the crimes of the Serbs, the impotence-causing war in Afghanistan, Arafat's crimes against the aspirations of Palestine, Israel's merciless aggression against Lebanese soil, and other things are the important issues internationally and in the Muslim world, and they must be dealt with using an aggressive and systematic foreign policy and using the necessary coordination with the nonaligned and Islamic nations.

2. The deletion of Note 25 and the approval of Paragraph H, which prohibits any kind of price increase in the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], was a positive step. This must become the method and approach of the Majles. Votes must not be cast for any motion or bill that entails increased prices or puts more of a burden or pressure on the people. If the government becomes a symbol of selling at high prices, how can selling at high prices in society be opposed?

3. The best way to fight social corruption is to raise the general level of culture, create employment, especially for young people, and make efforts to eliminate poverty, because infidelity and corruption and poverty enter our lives through the same doors.

4. Every day some people are fired from administrative offices and government employment on the pretext of adjusting manpower. Consequently, there is less occupational security and more people are added to the ranks of the unemployed. Every day items needed by the public become more expensive on the pretext of economic adjustment. The adjustment must be adjusted.

5. I recommend that the Haj organization give priority to older applicants so they will not wait years deprived of this spiritual and luminous journey.

He then issued memos to the government concerning the ceiling on retirement pensions, to the Former Prisoners of War Staff concerning the procurement of housing for former prisoners of war, to the Wounded Veteran's Foundation for the construction of rest homes for wounded veterans, and to the Ministry of Health concerning the procurement of ambulances for the health-care units in Khomeyni Shahr. In conclusion the speaker said: In this luminous month, we are all obligated to support reform for the glory of Islam and the Muslims, for the salvation of the oppressed and to elevate the country.

Mohsen Rasi, Deputy From Mian-e Do Ab

The West is very frightened of Iran's potential development, progress, and elevation.

The next speaker was Rasi, deputy from Mian-e Do Ab. During his speech he discussed the Iranian nation's aware and splendid turnout for the 22 Bahman [11 February] demonstration march. He said: With the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the socialist bloc, the West, led by America, has found itself victorious and unrivaled in the world. At the end of the 20th century it imagines that liberalism, as the mainstay of Western civilization, has put the three great levers of nationalism, fascism, and communism behind it during this century. Now, emblematic and victorious, it announces the end of history.

Continuing, he added: These conclusions have now given license to Western policymakers and leaders, especially criminal America, to undertake any kind of aggression or hostility against the interests of the weak and undeveloped nations and to justify them as sick, historic, and ideological necessities.

The speaker noted that America's crimes in Bosnia and oppressed Azerbaijan arise from this naive and false thinking. He added: Today our country is faced with a wave of Western aggression. The West is very frightened of Iran's potential development and its conversion to the power that it has the ability, talent, and opportunity to become, and it has set out to erase Iranian identity and the reality of Iranian independence.

Rasi gave the following memos for safeguarding the values and achievements of the Islamic revolution: The government and the Majles must give attention to the interest of the deprived classes.

Economic policies and positions must be such that they reduce the pressure on the deprived classes. The concept of adjustment must be considered and it must be accepted that mere aimless growth and development are not constructive. Along with that must also be considered social justice, welfare, and public comfort. Limitations and prohibitions must be imposed on the import of consumer goods, which undermine the domestic production system. Productive and creative employment must be created to allow national talents and skills to flourish.

In the same regard he discussed the issue of cultural policy. He added: Culture is a force that creates the temperament, spirit, and sensitivity of society. It arises from society's highest values, and the richness and pride of this valuable heritage is realized when it is controlled by sound, strong, and committed management.

Cultural management is much more important and much more difficult than economic management, because if cultural management is reformed, the reform of economic management will follow.

Continuing, the speaker said: Of course, in the education and training sector our cultural management is beset by a kind of intellectual rigidity and practical selfishness. Appointments in the management of education and training in West Azerbaijan are not made on the basis of

the criteria of values. Inattention to basic and fundamental issues, in view of the ethical and political problems and the dark record its management has, is a living example, along with the minister's disregard for interests. For this reason, we have seen instability, disregard for regulations, severe weakness, school dropouts, and ethical decline in the schools of West Azerbaijan, and this has brought protests from committed teachers, officials, and the majority of the province's deputies.

He added: In a letter from the deputies of West Azerbaijan, they mentioned this, but the minister of education and training paid no attention to these memos, and resignation has resulted.

Hoseyn Irani, Deputy From Qom

Hoseyn Irani, deputy from Qom, was another preagenda speaker. He discussed the splendid 22 Bahman [11 February] demonstration and thanked the brave nation of Iran for its unified turnout. He praised the speaker of the Majles for participating in the demonstrations in the municipality of Qom.

Hasan Kamran, Deputy From Esfahan

The only country that supports freedom of thought is Islamic Iran.

The final preagenda speaker was Kamran, deputy from Esfahan. During his speech he discussed the anniversary of the historic religious decree from His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) concerning the killing of Salman Rushdie. He said: The month of Ramazan is the month of prayer and self-construction. The beginning of the writing of the Noble Prophet (peace be upon him) was revealed in this month, and it is a prescription for the salvation of the nations of the world. If they act on it, they will achieve true development, which is to say cultural development, and that will be followed by economic development.

He added: His Holiness, the Imam (peace be upon him), issued the religious decree to execute Salman Rushdie based on the commands of the Koran. For this reason, on the anniversary of this decree, the Muslim nations are insisting that this be carried out in the desired manner. Imperialistic news, especially as led by America, is trying to portray the implementation of this decree as lack of freedom of thought and interference in other countries. Of course, the nations of the world, especially the Islamic nations, have understood that what imperialism is defending is nothing but anarchy and chaos, just as the international organizations have written more than 200 resolutions against Muslim Bosnia, and only one of them has been issued.

Continuing, Kamran added: The combatant nation of Islamic Iran is opposed to this process where imperialism, especially America, is creating the cycle of oppression on earth. Once again on 22 Bahman [11 February] this year, they have shown the enemy that this illegitimate domination is without credibility, and that if they

stand in front of them it does not mean that they have a place among nations. It only shows the people of the world that their power is artificial. Of course, the sacrificing nation of Iran, with its many sacrifices, has exposed their unbelieving and hypocritical face. The exalted families of martyrs, wounded veterans, and former prisoners of war must realize, and they do realize, that they have understood the situation with this basiji thinking and by following the exalted leader. They have fought the enemy. The Salman Rushdie episode is a Zionist episode, and they are the ones wanting to implement its order, although Clinton received him and the West is friendly with him.

The deputy from Esfahan explained: The only country that supports freedom of thought is the one of the Islamic revolution, and opposition to the cultural invasion is prominent evidence of this, although the enemy's strategy to threaten has changed and they have not made the cultural invasion their policy. The warnings from the exalted leader have created a new defense strategy. The role of the Voice and Vision organization has been recognized in this matter and the Majles is expected to take a special step to solve this problem, in view of the counsel from the exalted leader.

Legislation

Bill To Amend the Law Establishing the Telephone Company

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the Bill To Amend Article 7 of the Law Establishing the Iran Telephone Company, of which Article 1 and its note were approved by the deputies.

Article 1: Article 7 of the Law Establishing the Iran Telephone Company enacted in the year 1350 [21 March 1971-20 March 1972] is amended as follows:

Article 7: In carrying out the responsibilities in this law, the company can use its capital or participate with the government or the nongovernment sector to form institutions as corporations. The charter for the companies formed on the basis of this law will be prepared by the company's general assembly, and after approval by the Council of Ministers it will be approved by a commission composed of the Majles Commission on Administrative and Employment Affairs, the Post and Telegraph Affairs Commission, and the Power Commission.

Note: The Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone is required to issue agreements in principle to private-sector applicants for investing in the production of communications equipment.

Bill To Amend the Obligatory Public Service Law

The second item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the National Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Amend Note 1, Article 34, of the Obligatory Public Service Law

enacted in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], the general form of which was approved by the Majles.

Based on Article 1 of this bill, "eligible persons who are studying abroad with an educational exemption are required to report to the relevant public service organization inside the country within one year after they stop studying or graduate."

Amendment to Municipalities Law

The next item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the Motion To Amend the Municipalities Law. This motion was not approved by the deputies and was rejected.

Among the reasons for its rejection: First, in view of the mass of work in judicial trials and the shortage of judges, referring the matter to judicial trials would delay cases.

Second: In view of the fact that based on the Municipalities Law the matter of supervision and technical affairs pertaining to construction has been assigned to the municipalities, it is best that implementation of this matter also be guaranteed by the municipalities.

Third: As indicated by the prior record, dealing with affairs pertaining to Article 100 of the Municipalities Law was formerly within the competence of the No. 2 Penal Courts. Due to the creation of problems, the task of dealing with these affairs was assigned to the Article 100 commissions.

Fourth: In view of the motion's lack of thoroughness in dealing with the problems in the Municipalities Law and the necessity for a comprehensive study and amendment to the Municipalities Law, it must be studied in the framework of a complete motion or bill.

Likewise, based on Article 1 of the motion: "all construction violations within the service areas and limits of the municipalities will be dealt with in the No. 2 Penal Courts in accordance with regulations."

Article 2 says: "Implementation of this law in accordance with regulations will be the responsibility of the judicial power, and municipal agents are prohibited from interfering. Violations of this will result in the punishment of the supervisor and person in charge."

Law Amending Direct Taxes

The final item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Amend One Paragraph to Article 22 of the Law Amending Direct Taxes, enacted in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], continued consideration of which was postponed to the next session.

It is worth mentioning that the amendment to Article 22 says: "Up to 50 percent of the income taxes of the operational and specialist cadres of the Airline Company

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of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the National Airline organization, and the National Airline Services Company (ASMAN) are forgiven."

Proclamation From 170 Majles Deputies Congratulating the Exalted Leader on the New Appointment in the Voice and Vision Organization

A letter to the exalted leader of the revolution from 170 deputies was read. The letter offers congratulations on the 16th anniversary of the Islamic revolution. The letter also discusses the comprehensive and clarifying proclamation, which has been issued from that dear leader on the occasion of presenting the new management of the Voice and Vision organization. It says: The prominent characteristics of this historic proclamation are comprehensiveness, attention to existing talents and abilities, sensitivity to past defects and malfunctions, and a penetrating and long look into the future, careful attention to the scope of the Voice and Vision organization as a comprehensive medium, an effort to make a distinction between lewd music and nonlewd music, confidence in aware, knowledgeable, and highly concerned management and praise for the sincere efforts of that organization's believing officials and managers. It is a publication that transferred from pen point to white paper the high thoughts of that exalted official in order to specify the policies and procedures of the media university.

How can we express our gratitude to this insightful leader and informed public figure for granting us the valuable heritage of Great Khomeini (peace be upon him) and his voice, the voice of truth and his words, the words of righteousness? The Majles deputies offered congratulations to the esteemed brother, Dr. 'Ali Larijani, who attained the worthy status needed to receive the special favor and confidence of the emamate of the Islamic nation. We wish him success in implementing the aspirations of that exalted leader. We assure the exalted leader that the deputies of the people in the Majles are loyal to his authoritative and benevolent call and will spare no effort to obey him. We hope that Dr. Larijani, in view of the worthiness and competence he showed while he was in the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, will put your guidance into practice.

In conclusion the letter states: We consider it necessary in the presence of the vice regent of the Muslims to express our thanks and praise to our proud nation, which showed the greatness of its religious and national steadfastness on 22 Bahman [11 February] by its presence at a splendid demonstration, and we ask Almighty and Omnipotent God to grant honor to these zealous people.

Majles Notes

Credits To Oppose the Cultural Invasion

Of the credits from Note 55 of the Budget Bill for 1373, 60 percent was spent on creating suitable projects for fighting the cultural invasion.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reza Taqavi, chief of the Majles Islamic Guidance and Art Commission, gave a short interview to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, in which he announced this. He said: A total of 1 percent of the sums deducted from each source of general revenues for the next year, which is a sum of about 7.5 billion toman, will be allocated to fight the cultural invasion.

He added: To answer the call from the exalted leader, who called on the government and the Majles to support the Voice and Vision organization in his order to this organization's new chief, the Islamic Guidance and Art Commission has allocated 50 percent of this budget to the Voice and Vision organization.

Continuing, Mr. Taqavi said: The budget for fighting the cultural invasion will be planned and spent by a council in the office of the president of the republic composed of a deputy vice president of the republic, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, the supervisor of the Voice and Vision organization, and the chief of the Islamic propaganda organization. The chief of this council will be the minister of culture and Islamic guidance.

Continuing, the deputy from Tehran discussed the abilities of Dr. 'Ali Larijani in his now position as manager of the Voice and Vision organization. He said: In view of his cooperation with the Majles Guidance Commission, in general, opinions of him are positive. In the short period he was in the Ministry of Guidance, Dr. Larijani laid the foundation for some good activities. He made worthy and serious efforts in the areas of art, theater, cultural seminars, the circulation and reading of books, and support for the structure of cultural complexes.

Concluding, Mr. Taqavi discussed the new minister of culture and Islamic guidance. He said: The Islamic Art and Guidance Commission will cooperate with all its ability and prerogatives with whomever receives a vote of confidence from the Majles.

16 Feb

94LA0110A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Feb 94
p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Mr 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, postponing the open session. The reason for the postponement was a speech by the foreign minister concerning the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For this reason there were no preagenda speeches at this session. When the Majles continued it took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our respected readers to the detailed proceedings.

Legislation

Amendment to the 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] Direct Taxes Law

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the first consultation of the

Economic and Financial Affairs Commission concerning the rejection of the bill to append a paragraph to Article 22 of the Law To Amend the 1371 Direct Taxes Law, the general form of which was approved.

It is worth mentioning that the aforementioned commission rejected this bill. According to Article 1 of this bill, "up to 50 percent of the income taxes for the Islamic Republic of Iran Airline Company's operational and specialist personnel is forgiven."

Tax Exemptions for All Private Institutions Working in Handicapped Support Affairs.

The second item on the agenda was the report from the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission concerning the Bill Providing Tax Exemptions for All Private Institutions Working in Handicapped Rehabilitation and Support Affairs, Providing Services to the Mentally Retarded and the Like, and Also Services to Boarding Houses and Child-Care Centers, the general form of which was also approved by the Majles.

Motion To Amend the Smuggler Penalties Law

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Judicial and Legislative Affairs Commission concerning the Motion To Amend Article 1 of the Smuggler Penalties Law, enacted 12/29/1353 [19 March 1975], the general form of which was approved by the Majles.

Article 1 states: Anyone who smuggles assets that are government revenues or whose import or export is either prohibited or reserved exclusively for the government, in addition to being required to return the asset or its equivalent value, will be sentenced to the payment of a cash fine of up to double the value in rials of the smuggled asset, according to the case and in view of the circumstances, the resources, and the number of times the crime was committed, or will be sentenced to up to 74 lashes, or will be sentenced to prison for up to two years in addition to the fine.

Law To Collect Taxes for Leaving the Country

The fourth item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Append Paragraphs 18 and 19, Note 5, Article 1 of the Law To Collect Taxes for Leaving the Country, enacted in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], the general form of which was approved.

The commission expert discussed this bill. He said: Note 5 of this bill says: The following travelers are exempt from payment of the taxes for leaving the country given in this law: Iranian travelers who are going abroad for continued education through the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and who are observing regulations. We, therefore, added that to the bill in Paragraphs 18 and 19.

Paragraph 18 mentions ethnic individuals from the deprived areas intending to leave the country through the nation's authorized deprived ports and regions.

Paragraph 19 mentions Iranian travelers intending to leave the country on passenger ships bearing the flag of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran departing from ports on the Caspian Sea.

Motion To Build Shared Urban Tunnel

The next item on the agenda was the report from the second consultation of the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the Motion To Build a Shared Urban Tunnel, whose provisions were approved by the Majles.

Article 1: The government is required to provide every organization with the credits from the projects involved in order to participate and invest with user organizations in the new cities built by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction and in the development of cities being carried out by the technical offices of the governors-general, for the construction of shared tunnels needed by the organizations and companies providing urban services such as water and sewage, electrical power, gas, telephone and etc., observing the relevant technical principles, and safety issues.

Article 2: On lands prepared for the new cities, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction is required to build shared tunnels for urban services and to collect the costs from the user organizations.

Article 3: To build the shared tunnels, in accordance with the approved projects, the cooperative companies or the private sector organizations may collect the costs from the user organizations.

Article 4: Repair and maintenance of the urban tunnels is the responsibility of the municipality, and the expenses will be collected annually from the user organizations on the recommendation of the Ministry of the Interior and with the approval of the Council of Ministers.

Article 5: The Plan and Budget Organization is required to obtain the credits needed annually for the project, which are estimated and proposed by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction, from the total development credits and financial resources of the relevant ministries (the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone and the Ministry of Petroleum), and to include the funds in the budget bill.

Article 6: Within three months of the date of this law's enactment, the executive guidelines for this law will be prepared by the Ministry of the Interior with the cooperation of the relevant organizations and approved by the Council of Ministers, and implementation will begin with the beginning of the implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Amendment to the Law To Send Students Abroad

The final item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Joint Commission on Culture and Higher Education and Health Care and Welfare concerning the Motion To Amend Article 3 and Note 1 of Article 3 of the Law To Send Students Abroad, enacted 1/25/1364 [14 April 1985], of which the general form was not approved and was rejected.

Article 1 of this motion states: Students with bachelor's degrees and higher who have spouses will be sent abroad in view of the capacity of the nation's universities and the foreign exchange resources of needed and entirely necessary fields of study. The ministry will specify these cases once a year.

Note: Individuals who are accepted in the examination to go abroad and who for some reason cannot select a spouse or whose spouse cannot travel may study in the nation's domestic universities.

Majles Notes**300 Billion Rials[R] Credit for Marriage Loans in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995]**

Engineer Mohammad Hashem-Rahbari, deputy from Tehran, told RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent yesterday: In the year 1373 the sum of R300 billion from interest-free bank credits was allocated to help young people get married.

He said: On the government's recommendation, 10 percent of this total sum was set aside for veterans, and the Majles may increase the share of veterans, those who have sacrificed, and basijis to a maximum of 20 percent.

Continuing, he added: In the year 1371 a minimum of R1 million and a maximum of R2 million were set as the share of each individual, but unfortunately in this regard the banks did not act well. Most of the deputies have a negative view of this part of the banks' performance. We hope this year the banks will pay the necessary attention to this important subject, which plays a basic role in the creation of families, thwarts the cultural invasion, and will create the necessary Islamic atmosphere among the young people.

Continuing, the member of the Budget Commission said: The banks are stingy with the payment of marriage loans and interest-free options, and they have little interest in this. Although the government guarantees the difference between the commission on the interest-free loans and the profit expected by the banks and includes the funds in the budget bill, the banks pay little attention to this matter.

Dr. Velayati's Attendance at Yesterday's Closed Session

Our correspondent's report states that Dr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, attended yesterday's closed Majles session. In a speech he discussed the trilateral conference between Iran, Turkey, and Syria. Elsewhere

in his talk, he discussed Iran's political activities in support of the oppressed people of Bosnia.

19 Feb

94LA0116A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Mar 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday in open session chaired by Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from the cities of Tehran, Ardeh and Farsan, and Chenaran and Tarqobeh gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings. It is worth mentioning that yesterday, contrary to normal practice, at 1000 the Majles session was closed for part of the proceedings.

Weekly Agenda of Majles Commissions

Printed below are the most important weekly agendas for the Majles commissions from Saturday 11/30/1372 [19 February 1994] to Thursday 12/5/1372 [24 February 1994].

Oil Affairs Commission

Inspection of the Tehran refinery.

Study of current issues in the oil industry, attended by the relevant minister.

Industries and Mines Commission

Question from a number of deputies concerning the issues surrounding vehicle imports and construction.

Study of the motion to prohibit the production of products licensed by American and English companies.

Study of the motion on procedures for preventing air pollution.

Housing, Urban Construction, and Roads and Transportation Commission

Study of the motion to supervise foreign trips by government employees.

Bill to exempt the Martyr Foundation, the 15 Khordad Foundation, the municipalities and the banks from the payment of court costs.

Agriculture and Rural Development Affairs Commission

Study of the consumption and waste of wheat and bread, attended by officials from the Grain Organization.

Culture and Higher Education Commission

Study of the motion to prohibit the establishment and management of universities and institutions of higher learning.

Study of the motion on higher education without a competitive admissions examination.

Mohammad Hashem-Rahbari, Deputy From Tehran

If we cut the nation's fuel consumption by just 1 percent, we will no longer need to borrow from the World Bank.

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Rahbari, deputy from Tehran. In his speech he offered congratulations and felicitations on the arrival of the springtime of the Islamic revolution and the springtime of the Koran. He said: The human being, with his absolute views and endless hopes and aspirations, is faced with limited resources. Therefore, to make reasonable use of these limited resources, he gets help from planning, organizing, and scheduling of time. Naturally, in this Islamic and populist government, plans and policies are formed that arise from the beliefs of the people. Therefore, the basis of development planning is the values that prevail in society, which is the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Continuing, Rahbari said: In economic affairs, there must not be confusion, disorder, and a lack of supervision of the government that represents the nation and defends the rights of the majority in society.

He then quoted Martyr Beheshti, saying: Behind the faith of human beings is the law and implementation of the law by the government and the responsible social organizations, along with the application of power.

Rahbari noted: This is the wish of the people, and we must answer in a positive and helpful way to the logical demands of our benefactors. For example, why is our urban transportation not regulated financially?

Even in terms of foreign realities, what country or belief system defends in practice the freedom of irresponsibility and lack of restrictions in all areas, without encountering contradictions, and ultimately finding it not in its best interest or reaching a dead end? Moreover, the imposition of geopolitical and strategic conditions and the kind of resources a nation has shows that this orthodox political government has a political economy and that politically it is dependent on the most political economic goods, which is the foundation of the economy of the nations of the world, especially the industrial nations.

Continuing, the deputy from Tehran said: Should we not make serious cuts in fuel consumption, in order to preserve this national wealth, protect our economic power, obtain greater added value, meet our responsibility to future generations, protect the environment and prevent air pollution? Do we not yet agree that we are involved in an economic war?

The speaker said that we must tighten our belts. He said: We must invest this God-given wealth (oil) to capture water, produce food, and build petrochemical industries and conversion industries. Instead of exporting raw materials, we must export petrochemical substances and agricultural products. If we had cut our consumption of

fuels just 1 percent in the last five years, would all this money have been given to the Islamic Republic of Iran during this period by the World Bank and the IMF?

Can a country that has outstanding debts fight the consumers of its major export and retain its independence?

Rahbari discussed the important role of management in relation to the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: We must put investment in education and training and research at the top of our agenda, because, for example, based on the indicators presented by the World Bank, during the last decade growth in the developing nations succeeded because these nations made major investments in human resources. In statistics for the year 1900, Iran, with an indicator of 577 one-thousandths [as published], is in 92d place. We must guard the worth and rights of those who protected this country from the invasion of foreigners, and in allocating resources and weighing the economic balance, we must consider these basijis and people who have sacrificed. In distributing wealth and revenues, we must observe justice among the people.

In this same regard he discussed reform of the nation's tax system. He said: Removing subsidies hurts those groups who are out of work for various reasons or who are on fixed incomes. It is the duty of the Islamic government to collect taxes from those with incomes and wealth as it should, and on the other hand it must give help freely to those who are living below the poverty line to help them have a minimum lifestyle, by reforming the system of subsidies, establishing a strong insurance system, and through other methods.

The fact that since the year 1320 [21 March 1941-20 March 1942] our balance of payments has been negative in all but three years without counting oil exports shows that we have always consumed more than we produce, and this must be changed.

'Ali Yusefpor, Deputy From Ardel

In the last 15 years, and especially during the First Five-Year Plan, our sacred government has had great successes in doing infrastructure work.

The next speaker was Yusefpor, deputy from Ardel. During his speech he said the 22 Bahman [11 February] demonstration was splendid. He said: Just as in the first days of the revolution, the oppressed and low-income people are still loyal to the leader and the revolution. They are ready to make any kind of sacrifice to defend its achievements. This turnout by millions of people in the most remote parts of the country has made the responsibility of the government's officials heavier, and they must make more effort than in the past to serve these sacrificing people.

He added: The awareness of oppressed nations is increasing every day, from North Africa to East Asia. Even in the heart of the European and American nations, Muslims are rediscovering their identity. The criminal

Western nations, led by America and backed by the oppressive governments, are busy slaughtering revolutionary Muslims, but they must realize that the 21st century is the century of the triumph of the revolution. The blood of every martyr that has been spilled on the ground is great support for the struggles of Muslim youth.

The deputy from Ardel then discussed the achievements of the revolution inside the country. Regarding the alleviation of poverty, he said: In alleviating poverty in the nation, the Government of the Islamic Republic has had many successes. Under the former regimes, most of the nation's provinces lacked any kind of infrastructure service. The Government of the Islamic Republic is proud to have wiped the dust of several thousand years of deprivation from the faces of the deprived and the oppressed, and it has given them a life with relatively low-cost welfare.

He added: In the last 15 years, and especially during the First Five-Year Plan, our sacred government has had great successes in doing infrastructure work.

A. There has been expansion in education and training and in higher education in such a way that one may say with confidence that almost 100 percent of the qualified students are receiving educational services and the number of our students has increased eightfold since the year 1357 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980].

B. Another success is the reconstruction of the war-stricken and damaged areas throughout the country. The reconstruction of the earthquake region in the north is a great and praiseworthy task.

He noted that many capabilities have been created among the nation's specialist manpower in industry, dam construction, road building, and other areas. He noted: The policies of economic adjustment, which were approved under the First Five-Year Plan by the Majles, are being implemented with the unequalled insight and courage of our president of the republic. Transforming our nation's one-product and jungle economy is a very difficult and great task. These great successes were achieved during the last 15 years while the enemies of our revolution throughout the world have spared no effort to carry out their plots. However, the nation of Iran, under the leadership of the late Imam and the exalted leader, has always emerged victorious and proud from all the plots.

Yusefpor discussed the plot to publish the book *The Satanic Verses* and His Holiness', the Imam (peace be upon him), aware decree to kill Salman Rushdie. He said: The decree to kill Salman Rushdie has united Muslims throughout the world and it has fallen like a noose that gets tighter every day around the neck of the Government of England. The only way open to the Government of England is to kill the apostate Salman Rushdie.

He cited the appointment of Dr. Larijani as chief of the Voice and Vision Organization as a great change in the struggle against the Western cultural invasion. Addressing him, he said: We hope you will use the above media to portray our vigorous, Islamic, and national culture to the world as a prevailing culture. This is your duty, because you were born and grew up in a family of knowledge and piety.

Elsewhere in his talk he said: Making the budget ceiling on government revenues realistic is one of the valuable measures enacted by the Majles in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget. Our government organizations must take careful note that a country cannot undergo reconstruction and economic change while its people are behaving like the children of the rich. The Majles has decided to deal with the various organizations and managers one by one.

He praised Mir Mohammadi's record and activities and offered congratulations on his appointment as chief of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization. He noted: One of the nation's greatest problems now is the inefficiency of government structures.

In conclusion, he asked the minister of roads and transportation for help with the completion of the Shahr-e Kord airport. He issued a memo to the managing editor of the newspaper SALAM. He said: You are a prominent clergyman with a good record. No newspaper of which you are the concession holder should damage the reputation of a prominent figure in the revolution, especially the president of the republic, and it must not create disappointing scenarios that create grievances for the nation's youth and undermine the Islamic revolution. This practice by your newspaper is a violation of ethical and Islamic principles. As a prominent clergyman, you certainly should be more loyal and steadfast than anyone. You must stop these improper practices. The Muslim and aware nation of Iran cannot accept sabotage, and ultimately those who practice it will be rejected by the people unless they turn away from this mistaken path.

***Alinaqi Seyyed Khamushi, Deputy From Tehran**

The exigencies of the time now dictate that rapid measures be taken to consolidate similar ministries.

Seyyed Khamushi, deputy from Tehran, was the third preagenda speaker. In his speech he enumerated the things the people expect from the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: There are now many duplicate branches of our nation's administrative apparatus. They may have been necessary in some way at the time they were created, but there is certainly no feeling now that they need be continued. These duplicate branches have inflated the government so much that every year we see more growth in the cost of the vast administrative apparatus, which unfortunately does not even have the necessary efficiency.

He added: The same issue has caused the creation of a series of false responsibilities. Ultimately, instead of doing the work of the people quickly, the nation's system of paper shuffling has expanded in a harmful way. The exigencies of the time now dictate that study of the consolidation of similar ministries that was presented in the Majles last year, which the Majles tabled for various reasons at the request of the government, must be revived and implemented quickly.

He added: If our administrative system is reformed and work is done in such a way that no one is ever overcharged and the necessary care and speed is exercised in the work of the people, naturally there will be a reduction in the public's long and tiresome dealings with certain organizations, which can sometimes take years.

Unfortunately, the wheels of our administrative system now turn in such a way that a large group spends the whole year doing very little useful work, while a handful of people in each organization has an excessive and unbearable amount of work to do. Then the people who do not do any work are crying that wages and payments must be the same, while social justice dictates that the one who does the most work should reap the benefits of his work.

The speaker then discussed the fact that the average work day is less than seven hours. He added: If our administrative structure is not reformed in such a way that the desired use is made of specialist manpower, if work and work hours are not reformed, if the necessary tools are not made available to workers and if logical order is not created for work days and work hours, the desired result will not be achieved from any effort to implement the Second Five-Year Plan or even the nation's current programs.

Khamushi discussed the nation's subsidy system. He said: The current system of subsidy payments must get away from its current dysfunctional and wasteful state, where in practice the rich are allowed to dine at the tables of the poor. A system must be established as soon as possible where families with incomes below the poverty line will receive a monthly sum in cash to help them meet necessary expenses. The current system of subsidy payments must be eliminated, and realistic prices must find their places so that farmers and producers will receive true value for their labors. Clearly, here we are talking about subsidies on consumer goods. Theoretical subsidies to expand production and exports are another matter, and these need to continue for at least another little while in order to increase our production levels to the desired quality.

In the same regard, he added: The government cannot and must not pass on to the people every high price caused by improper management and monopolies. In short, it must compensate for these kinds of poor returns and high prices by giving subsidies to the people. Our industrial units must be managed with free competition, proper management, and industrial accounting so that

the true finished cost and how much subsidy the government really ought to pay will be clear, but in any case the operative principle must be the payment of cash assistance to the people who are living below the acceptable standard of living.

The deputy from Tehran discussed the collection of taxes. He said: The most just way to meet expenses is to tax the consumption and volume of use of national services and installations. If someone does not have an automobile, why should he pay road maintenance taxes? Sometimes the taxes he pays, apart from what is collected as fees, are even equal to those paid by someone who travels continuously on the city's highways and roads. He should pay in proportion to his just share of all these heavy expenses, so the government will be able to compensate those who are hurt and lose money because of the uses others make of these resources. In this case, whoever consumes more will pay more and will pay his taxes directly and in cash, in order to reduce the damaging consequences of indirect taxes.

Khamushi discussed the alleviation of deprivation. He said: We must get beyond sloganeering on this issue. The reality is that there is no point that is not operable and able to be expanded in an acceptable way. We are now operating mines on the nation's two deserts and in those same areas it would be possible to operate huge solar power stations.

In conclusion he added: We must make life throughout our country such that the people will not hesitate to go and work and invest in any part of it, and be able to earn suitable profits for their activities.

Ahmad Moradi, Deputy From Tarqobeh and Chenaran

The taxation system must be direct, and taxes should be collected on the incomes of individuals.

The final preagenda speaker was Ahmad Moradi, deputy from Tarqobeh and Chenaran. In his speech he praised the solid public turnout for the 22 Bahman [11 February] march and said: As they did in other Iranian cities, the people of my electoral district held a splendid celebration of the Islamic revolution, which showed their deep understanding of the Islamic revolution and showed their cultural growth and high political intelligence. They declared their support for the government, the leader, and the toiling government.

He added: With its logical and principled approach to approving the 1373 budget, the Majles created a wave of hope and joy among the people and it proved that in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran the people are one of the best organizations, that attention must be given to their problems and difficulties in all planning and policy making, and that special priority be given to the deprived and vulnerable classes of society.

Now that realistic and achievable revenues for the year 1373 have been set through the perception and foresight

of the Majles, I consider it necessary to mention the following, as the budget deliberations continue.

1. The procedure for spending the budget must be such that its main points and general policies are as outlined by the leader of the revolution.

2. The taxation system must be changed in such a way that taxes are collected directly on the incomes of individuals, and it must refrain from imposing indirect taxes, whose pressure falls on the deprived classes and the consumers.

3. In the section that pertains to expenses, priority must be given to semicomplete projects in order to make the best use of the investments that have been made.

4. The agricultural and rural development sector, as an important factor in the nation's self-sufficiency and independence, must be given serious attention.

5. Cutting costs and preventing many unnecessary expenditures that have made the government's costs unrealistic must become a matter of law.

6. The most important goal in planning and approving the budget is reducing dependence on oil revenues and increasing the share of other resources for providing employment in the budget, and attention must be given to this. The most important outcome of that will be invulnerability to the world's economic changes, especially the political tricks of world imperialism, led by world devouring America.

In conclusion, he expressed gratitude for Dr. Ghafuri-Fard's several years of service as chief of the Physical Training Organization.

Legislation

Bill To Add the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Children's Rights Convention

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the Bill To Add the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Children's Rights Convention (returned from the Council of Guardians), for which the commission's amendment was approved.

Article 1 - The Children's Rights Convention, which includes an introduction and 54 articles, is approved in its entirety and authorization is given for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to join, provided that its provisions in any case and at any time are not obligatory for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran if they are in conflict with domestic laws and Islamic criteria.

Amendment to Article 99 of the Municipalities Law

The second item on the agenda was the report from the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the motion to append a paragraph and three notes as

Paragraph 3 to Article 99 of the Municipalities Law, for which the commission's amendment was approved by the Majles.

Commission's Amendment Under Note 3

The expenses incurred in implementing this paragraph will be met from the revenues given in Note 2 of this law. For the areas implementing this law that are not within the limits of the aforementioned municipalities, if they are within the legal limits of another city, the associated fees will be collected as before by the relevant municipality. Otherwise, they will be collected by the relevant district governor and deposited in the public treasury. Every year at least 80 percent of the aforementioned deposited funds will be included in the annual national budget for the development activities mentioned in Note 3 of this law.

Commission's amendment to Note 2: To prevent unauthorized construction outside the limits approved by the cities and in order to deal with violations, commissions consisting of representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, the judicial power and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction will be formed in the offices of the governors-general. In case of a violation, the commission will issue an order to destroy the building or pay a fine of 50 to 70 percent of the approved current value of the property, depending on the case and in view of the comprehensive plan (if the comprehensive plan has not been approved, then in accordance with Article 4 of the Guidelines for Building Construction Outside the Legal Limits of Cities, enacted in 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977]).

For buildings for which a fine has been set and paid in accordance with the provisions of this law and according to the commission's view, the appropriate authorities are required if requested by the owners to issue a work completion certificate.

Help With Family Expenses for Employed and Retired Women

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission concerning the Motion To Provide Help With Family Expenses for Employed and Retired Women, the general form of which was approved by the deputies.

Article 1 of this motion states:

Working and retired women who do not have spouses or whose spouse is handicapped and unable to work and who must meet the expenses of their spouses and children by themselves, may benefit from the family assistance funds given in Paragraph 1, Article 9.

Restoration of the Bill Excepting Service Personnel at Religious Sites From the Provisions of the Labor Law

The fourth item on the agenda was the government's request for the restoration of the Bill Excepting Service Personnel at Religious Sites From the Provisions of the Labor Law.

Result of 'Abdollahi's Question to the Minister of Post and Telegraph

Another item on the Majles agenda was the report from the Constitutional Articles 88 and 90 Commission concerning the question from Mr. 'Abdollahi, deputy from Mahneshan, to the minister of post, telegraph and telephone. The report from the commission was read as follows:

1. During the study of the annual budget bills and the First Five-Year Plan in the government and the specialist and Majles commissions, the executive organizations presented various reports in order to obtain the credits they need to carry out projects. Unfortunately, some of the organizations are putting sector-based thinking and organizational priorities ahead of the overall picture and the nation's economic capability and general interest.

2. While the commission was surprised by this kind of approach by the nation's executive organizations, it did not consider the approach taken by the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone in its presentation of different reports concerning the independent satellite project to be a departure from the aforementioned phenomenon. However, since the determination of the credits needed for projects before putting out the call for bids is predictable and since the performance of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone in this regard was not due to any bad intentions or abuses, the commission therefore determined that the minister's answer was satisfactory.

Majles Notes

Discussion in Yesterday's Closed Majles Session

Yesterday from 1000 to 1200 the Majles met in closed session. At the end of the session Engineer Mohammad Reza Bahonar, a member of the Majles Speaker's Council, gave an interview to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent in which he summarized what was discussed during this session, as follows:

One of the topics of this session was the procedures for implementing the Majles Internal Guidelines, in which the mechanism for dealing with the budget bill was changed. In this regard problems and difficulties were presented and were answered by the Speaker's Council.

One part of the discussion pertained to the position of the Plan and Budget Commission, which announced to all sectors that they must reduce their expenditures by 10 percent because in the first consultation the Majles reduced the ceiling on government revenues by 10,000 billion rials. A number of deputies had a problem with

this, saying that in announcing this social justice was not observed, but the view of the Plan and Budget Commission was that announcing this was one of the commission's prerogatives under the guidelines, and that if the figures for the cuts were different in different sectors, the differences of opinion among the deputies would be greater.

The outcome of the session was that the specialist commissions would cut costs in the relevant sectors by 10 percent, and an agreement was also reached with the Budget Commission that there would be flexibility of 2 to 3 percent so that the 10-percent cut would not be uniform in all sectors and that the figures will be changed in the necessary cases.

Engineer Bahonar discussed the cost cuts in the oil and energy sectors. He said: Since Note 25, which provides price increases for some by-products, was not approved by the Majles, the decision was made to make large cost cuts in these sectors and that the growth in these three sectors would not be greater than other sectors. On the other hand, it was decided that if the rial revenues for the oil sector are greater than anticipated in the 1373 budget, they will be allocated to compensate for some of the cost cuts.

He was asked the date the second consultation of the 1373 budget bill will be presented to the Majles. He said: It will very probably be presented on 14 Esfand [4 March], and by 20 Esfand [10 March] the final consultation will take place in the Majles.

Engineer Bahonar emphasized: Based on the rate the budget deliberations are going this year, next year the government should present the budget bill to the Majles sooner so the budget will be approved at the designated time, allowing two months for deliberations.

In conclusion, he discussed the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] budget deficit. He said: As of the end of the month of Dey this year [20 January 1994] the government's total receipts were about 80 percent of budget and there was a 20-percent deficit. In some cases the Plan and Budget Organization acted without allocating.

Commission Enactments

The Bill Authorizing the Formation of Development and Service Companies by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics

Article 1 of this bill says: The Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran is authorized to establish development and service companies, provided that it retains defense combat capability and readiness and after approval by the General Armed Forces Staff. This bill was approved in the Defense Affairs Commission.

Bill Forming General and Revolutionary Courts

Based on Article 3 of this bill, with the establishment of general courts in each judicial precinct, all civil and

penal cases will be heard by the aforementioned courts, while observing the local jurisdiction. The above bill was approved in the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission with 37 articles.

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held an open session yesterday with Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri presiding, and deputies from Shadegan, Ahvaz, Bandar 'Abbas, Masjed Soleyman, and Marand made speeches. Then, the session began with discussions concerning the vote of confidence for Engineer Mirsalim as the minister of Islamic guidance. The president, three supporting deputies, and Engineer Mirsalim were the speakers of the open session yesterday. Then a vote was taken, and the deputies gave their vote of confidence to Engineer Mirsalim with 178 supporting votes. We call to your attention the details of the discussions.

Speech of 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh in Support of Engineer Mirsalim

'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, the deputy from Esfahan, in support of Engineer Mirsalim for the post of minister of Islamic culture and guidance, emphasized in his speech such issues as culture and countering cultural invasion. He said: Unfortunately, the cultural organizations have not worked on this matter a great deal since the revolution. If one of the main enemies of this revolution is the United States, we must familiarize our people with America's tricks. After the revolution, understanding the United States is as important as understanding the hypocrites, from the perspective of the Koran. He added: Hence, the person who heads the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance must also understand cultural issues and countering the cultural invasion. As far as I know, Engineer Mirsalim is familiar with both of these issues. In other words, he is both a scholar and a teacher.

Stating that we must present our cultural issues and information on cultural invasion with tools appropriate to the times, he said: We absolutely can not present either our cultural arguments or our arguments concerning fighting cultural invasion through art.

He continued: We have very valuable artists of whom we can make proper use. For example, in novel writing, we have had no success since the revolution. The young people who wanted to reveal themselves were absorbed by the same artistic circles. He referred to the activities of one of the writers who said, in a publication in the Islamic regime: "Our society has no historical memory. It overthrows the monarchical regime and goes from one type of a problem to another. The Islamic revolution is another invasion of Iran by Arabs, and this self-motivated revolution, like an army without a commander, is doomed to failure." We have such writers.

Hence, the Ministry of [Islamic Culture and] Guidance must have an understanding of such issues.

The deputy from Esfahan referred to the broadcast of the Japanese cartoon, "I. Ki. Yu. San [as published], about a gifted student and the Iranian programs as the five-year-old first-grade student in the opposite sense of the previous cartoon on television and said: Our children also watch these. It means that, therefore, these issues are not accidental. I say that they are working conspiratorially.

Speech of Engineer Mirsalim

After the speech of Mr. 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, Engineer Mirsalim gave a speech. Thanking the grand leader and the president for their trust in him, he exposed the Western conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islam and spoke about the programs he would like to put into effect if he heads the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance.

He said: Our Islamic revolution is a spiritual and cultural revolution. Culture is a mirror of the human soul and heart. Since Bahman 1357 [February 1979], the contemporary human being for the first time, astonishingly, became familiar with a revolution in the name of God and for God. This revolution is the only revolution that is based not on animosity toward spirituality but on a return to religion and is influenced by divine knowledge.

Mr. Mirsalim added: The culture and historical heritage of every nation is a main part of its identity. In Iran, as well, Islamic culture is both religious and the main foundation of the nationality of the people. When a person is drained of culture, which includes religion, customs, literature, art, language, and writing, as well as the history of his civilization and thought, he is ready to accept any idea that is inculcated in him.

He said: Today's world faces corrupt governments seeking domination, governments that insist on making their cultures superior by dominating other nations and paving the road for perpetuating their interests, and they make use of any tool in this invasion.

Mirsalim said: In attacking the revolution, attention is paid to three targets, that is to say, the principle of Islamic beliefs, which is at the root of the changes of the Iranian people; Islamic civilization; and cultural products.

Then, in order to show the vast scope of the cultural invasion, he presented the deputies with some statistics and said: Last year, 40 research centers in Europe and the United States published 213 books and 300 articles on Iran and Islam, and besides what has been broadcast via satellite, 16 specifically counterrevolutionary radio stations and 18 foreign broadcasts in Persian have been active.

Mr. Mirsalim said: Also, 11 counterrevolutionary television networks broadcasting Persian language programs

as well as 213 Iranian and non-Iranian publication centers abroad publishing 315 books in Persian have tried to make allegations and ridicule Islamic values.

He added: In addition, last year, 310 cultural and artistic centers abroad have had anti-Iranian and Islamic culture activities and have made use of 113 journals in Persian for this purpose. International journals, too, have published about 110 articles about Iran and Islam.

Mirsalim made mention of the titles of these publications, of fundamentalism, of the role of the Shiites in the world, of the implementation of Islamic rule, of export of the revolution, of Islam gaining power once again, of internal conflicts in Iran, and of the violation of human rights and pointed out: In many of the articles, they would like to say that the ideological deadlock will soon yield fruit in Iran.

He also referred to eight conferences concerning Iran last year and said: Among these conferences are Clinton's conference about Iran-U.S. relations, Iran in the Year 2000, and also a conference by Israel called Fundamentalism.

Stating the expansive role of political, economic, and international factions over culture, he said: For the Islamic Republic of Iran, the most important factor in spiritual growth and worldly progress is the promotion of the general culture.

Giving priority to cultural growth over economic and social development in the country, Engineer Mirsalim added: To fail to observe cultural values may result in the growth of greed, inattention to each other's problems, and lack of interest on the part of the young people in starting a family.

He pointed out: Today, the young people, youths and children, make up more than 60 percent of the national population, and they are highly influenced by cultural and educational affairs. This indicates the strong need for providing resources and implementing cultural and artistic programs.

Mirsalim said: Given the economic situation of the world, which has also affected our country in certain ways, providing jobs for all job seekers is not possible. An examination of the likelihood of an increase in social problems and shortcomings is important. This increases the gravity of the responsibility of the cultural officials who play a role in intellectual guidance to prevent social corruption.

He added: In transmitting cultural concepts, language is the main principle. According to statistics, nearly 15 percent of our people still do not know Persian well. This shows the importance of a serious effort to teach for a fluent and strong national language along with purging it of foreign elements in the country and the preservation and growth of the foundation of this historical and authentic language in other regions, especially Persian-speaking countries and the subcontinent.

He referred to some of the obstacles in absorbing cultural resources, such as the deprivation of some of the regions, the extremely scattered nature of the population, the rate of illiteracy, and the lack of groundwork for attracting cultural and artistic activities and at the same time pointed out: The existence of valuable historical and Islamic works and the suitable areas for tourism and pilgrimages are among the positive points evident almost everywhere in the country.

Continuing, he said: Some of our economic policies have a strong effect on cultural activities, including providing expenditures for the implementation of the revitalization plan for the cultural and artistic centers of the mosques and creating and equipping exhibition halls, museums, and cinemas to diminish the present relative shortcomings. Also, mobilizing funds will provide incentives and increase cultural products and will help the operation of printing and publishing, film making, and tape production establishments.

Mr. Mirsalim mentioned support for writers and artists and organizing research and cultural centers as among his domestic programs as well as, on the foreign scene, attention to providing resources and cultural cooperation with Central Asian countries, along with strengthening cultural cooperation with Pakistan and Afghanistan and continuing cultural relations with the countries in the Persian Gulf areas.

He emphasized: Revision of the organization and structure of the Ministry for Administrative Reform and increasing efficiency are among the activities in the near future which should result in the improvement in management in various divisions.

It is noteworthy that after the speech of Engineer Mirsalim, voting took place, and of 224 votes of the deputies, he was given a vote of confidence to head the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, with 178 supporting vote, 27 opposing votes, and 19 abstentions.

Ratifications

Amendment of the Articles of the International Water Basins Convention

The second item on the the agenda of the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee concerned the bill to amend Articles 6 and 7 regarding the important International Water Basins and Water Fowl Habitats Convention (Ramsar), ratified in 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975]. The general points of this bill were ratified by the Majles.

Single Article. The government is granted permission to accept the amendment of Articles 6 and 7 on the important International Water Basins and Water Fowl Habitats Convention, ratified in 1353, which was amended on 28 May 1987 by the conference of member governments.

Bill on Changing the Legal Status of Large University Presses

The last item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions by the Administrative and Employment Committee concerning the bill to change the legal status of large university presses and those of higher education institutions, the examination of which was postponed to the next session.

'Isa Moqaddamizad, Deputy From Shadegan

The first preagenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Moqaddamizad from Shadegan, who thanked the people concerning their expansive presence in the march on 22 Bahman [11 February] and said: The enemies of Islam should know that our Islamic revolution, this divine phenomenon, is like a perpetual volcano that will burn their roots and give light to the people of Iran. Fifteen years of proud life of the greatest majestic river amidst the horrible and constant international turbulence proves this claim.

He added: The people of Iran proved on 22 Bahman [11 February] that they are capable of guarding these gains.

He then referred to the second round of discussions on the examination of the budget bill in the next few days in the Majles and said: The deputies know that the agricultural sector is vitally tied to the life of a major part of the population of the country, that is, the rural population, and it is impossible to separate these two from one another. In addition, the increasing population of our country in recent years has caused an increase in the demand for agricultural products. In order to fight the negative and strategic consequences of importing foodstuff under the present conditions of the world order, it is necessary to pay more attention to achieving self-sufficiency through increasing domestic products, and this goal will be impossible to achieve without increasing the budget of the agricultural sector.

Then, referring to the level of water output of the Khuzestan rivers, Moqaddamizad said: Unfortunately, despite this, a relatively small area of the land is being cultivated. Also, the pastures of the province, which evidence shows have had a very good capacity in the past, at the present time are incapable of feeding the livestock, to a great extent.

He then pointed out: The first program of higher education stated as its goals promoting and developing sciences, training and educating the expert manpower needed in the country, providing the necessary grounds for the development of research, innovation, and the absorption and transfer of technology. Shahid Chamran University, as an important complex of the Ministry of Higher Education, can play a determining role in achieving the goals stated in the First Five-Year Plan. But, considering the special conditions of Khuzestan Province in the eight years of sacred defense, this area has not been safe from damage by enemy and has suffered a great deal.

He added: Most unfortunately, I must say that at the present time, not only is the ratio of professors to students lower than the national average, but due to the existing problems has moved in a negative direction. Ultimately, if serious solutions are not found and good welfare conditions and suitable educational space are not provided, the universities will face increased critical problems.

The deputy from Shadegan referred to the elimination of the funds for Payam-e Nur University in the budget of the current year and made reminders to the minister of education regarding the problems of his constituency.

He added: This year, due to the severe shortage of rain, the rivers in the area are drying up, and the rural people are facing numerous problems with regard to drinking water. Hence, I ask the minister of [Construction] Jihad, before the cold season begins, to order the construction of pumping stations on the route of the rural water outreach networks.

He also asked the minister of labor for help and cooperation in creating a self-employment center in Shadegan.

Naser Sohrabi, Deputy From Masjed Soleyman

The next speaker was Naser Sohrabi, who thanked the people of Masjed Soleyman for their active participation in the 22 Bahman [11 February] march and said: Truly, the secret of our success in the bright period after the victory of the revolution has been the divine leadership and the alert presence of our revolutionary people on various scenes.

Emphasizing conservation and [avoidance of] waste in the executive organizations of the country, in connection with the tragic accident on the Ahvaz-Masjed Soleyman road, he said: Minister of Roads and Transport, indeed, how long shall we continue to witness the loss of life of our dear ones in the slaughterhouses of Khuzestan Province? Unfortunately, every day we witness the killing and injury of a significant number of our dear ones on the roads of the province. What is the fault of the deprived people of Khuzestan that they must witness such scenes every day?

In conclusion, he expressed sympathy for those killed in the above-mentioned accident.

Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, Deputy From Ahvaz

Seyyed Ahmad Musavi the deputy from Ahvaz, as the third preagenda speaker, mentioned the unified presence of the people of Islamic Iran in the 22 Bahman [11 February] march, a factor neutralizing the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam, and said: The disappointed oppressors, in order to remedy their incurable ailment and the confusion caused for them by the presence of the people, and in order to be freed from the shame of the incorrect analyses they have given regarding the 22 Bahman [11 February] march, had gone to the old witch, the mercenary Galindo Pohl, to broadcast their lies and

baseless reports and divert the alert minds of the people of the world from this issue.

He added: We thank God that this time, too, the dear people, as in the past, emerged victoriously and proudly from another divine test and once again made the responsibility of the executive officials heavier than in the past. Certainly the same people will also be patient and resistant with regard to the economic war of the enemies of Islam and will sincerely stand at the side of the officials of the regime with all their hearts and their very existence. But, it must also be said that our people have a just point to make, to which attention must be paid. And that is, is the prevention of waste and extravagance and participation in the economic war the duty of the people alone? What is the duty of government companies and institutions in this regard? And essentially why should some individuals in government areas be allowed to burn up the Treasury? Why should a very small number of individuals, who with their waste and extravagance put the sincere services of the majority of the officials in question, be given a chance to do so indifferently? How am I to justify to the martyr-nurturing people in Ahvaz that an official spends more than 200,000 tomans a month to operate his house? Or how a company can spend millions on erecting or decorating the exterior of the company building? Or how an individual, in order to learn how to entertain and give parties, is sent abroad with the people's dollars? Or how government buildings are built at exorbitant cost and under the influence of Western culture?

He emphasized: The first and last word of the people in this regard is that there has to be accountability, and the violators must be dealt with openly. Caution in these matters will be a great blow that will be difficult to tolerate. The people know well how sincerity has worked and has brought the country, despite all the problems and conspiracies of the enemies to the verge of self-sufficiency. But their complaint is about weak oversight, and in some cases total lack of supervision, in the government companies. I hope that in the future, with the coordination of the Majles and the government, we witness more serious steps in this connection.

In conclusion, concerning the shortages of his constituency, he mentioned the existing potential of this province and said: Unfortunately, the province of Khuzestan, affected by the damages from the imposed war, carries problems on its shoulders that are less evident in other provinces.

Among the problems of his province he mentioned the lack of suitable means to store essential goods in order to regulate the consumer market; the shortage of warehouses, silos, and cold storage houses to meet the needs of the province; the lack of control and supervision over the proper implementation of prices and pricing; the high rate of inflation compared to other areas of the country; and unemployment.

He also pointed out the need to repair the existing hospitals and the severe dearth of athletic resources in Khuzestan.

He also praised and expressed gratitude for the appointment of the new directors of the Voice and Vision and the Administrative and Employment Affairs [Committee] of the country and expressed hope that the new individuals will be able to render their service.

'Abbasi, Deputy From Bandar 'Abbas

Another preagenda speaker was 'Abbasi. He thanked the people of Bandar 'Abbas for electing him and said: In today's world, the purest of all is the term religion, and what goes on in the world today is nothing but heathenism. I sincerely ask all the scholars of Islam and Muslims to come to the aid of Islam and rise in its defense.

He added: What also happens today in the Christian and Jewish worlds as well is not in accordance with the Torah and the Bible; the Jewish and Christian clerics are obliged to reinstate the [Torah and the] Bible because their government officials oppose religion.

He added: It is only through religion that human rights can be understood. Those who have no religion do not have the right to give opinions in connection with human rights. What is articulated in today's world headed by the United States under the pretext of human rights is cow's rights [as published; he is playing on words]. Those who have no religion have no right to express opinions about human rights. Because in every conspiracy and corruption the United States is one of the main elements, the seat of the United Nations must be moved from the United States to another country.

Because Texas and Alaska have been usurped and taken by force, they must either become independent or be annexed to their original country.

'Abbasi referred to the issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina and said: What is happening in Bosnia and Herzegovina is nothing but a trick against Islam, and the entire Muslim nation knows it. Stating that the insurance, labor, trade, and customs laws must all be reformed, he pointed out: Until these laws are reformed, we shall not see the economic thriving we should, because these laws greatly hinder and impede the economic thriving of our country. Our bureaucratic structure requires very rapid reform. It is not in our interests for this situation to continue.

The deputy from Bandar 'Abbas explained: Domestic investment by the government must be guaranteed in order for people to engage in the investment in and thriving of the economy more than they do. According to 'Abbasi, the problem of the cold region is fuel outreach and the warm areas electricity outreach, for which the government must find a necessary solution.

He continued: The academics must learn religion and religiousness from the mosques, religious centers, and seminaries; otherwise, they will drown in the darkness of intellectualism.

At the present time, the Office of Strengthening Unity exists in name only and will be dissolved automatically. It seems that it has no political activity. If it so desires, it must reestablish an office and accept membership. Early in the revolution, it was established for the coordination of the Islamic groups in universities; however, almost all those groups have resigned.

In conclusion, he emphasized attention to the seminaries.

Ebrahim Sarraf, Deputy From Marand

Ebrahim Sarraf the deputy from Marand was the last preagenda speaker. He praised the people of his constituency for their united presence in the 22 Bahman [11 February] march, and, thanking the head of the Judicial Branch and other officials for being present in Azerbaijan, he offered his congratulations on the appointment of Dr. Larijan as the head of Voice and Vision.

He added: The oppressors should not think that one brother has left and a system has been weakened. Rather, they should know that the one who has come is closer than a brother. I ask the grand leader, the president, the speaker of the Majles, and the deputies to save this country from the state of neither war nor peace and move it towards lasting peace. If we reach true peace, foreign currency will cost us the same 7 toman [per dollar].

He termed the increase in the price of foreign currency dangerous for the reconstruction of the country and said: If we are realistic, we will see that this so-called state of neither war nor peace is controlled by a number of so-called extremist politicians who continuously want to

set fire to the country. In other words, it can be said that they are the same ones who in the Persian Gulf war were shouting and urging us to enter the war on the side of Saddam.

In conclusion, he asked the money changers to reduce the price of foreign currency themselves, before they commit suicide [as published].

On the Margins of the Majles

Bylaws Reminder of the Deputy of Damavand and Firuzkuh

Rasulinezhad, the deputy from Damavand and Firuzkuh, said in his bylaws reminder concerning the investigation and inquiry into the operations of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education:

A number of deputies and I requested an investigation and inquiry in regards to the operation of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, and this request was discussed and ratified by the Majles. Unfortunately, as reported, the above-mentioned committee has not made much progress, and those of us who made the request have no information on it. Just because the minister has changed is no reason to fail to examine those issues. In any case, the instances of violation that had occurred regarding us were discussed, including the procedures regarding educational grants, the procedures for sending students abroad, the procedures regarding the selection of the board of trustees, and violations in connection with instances concerning the ratifications of the Cultural Revolution Council. Unfortunately, the gentlemen have done nothing.

In response to this reminder, the speaker of the Majles said: We will ask the Higher Education Committee about to what stage the inquiry and investigation has reached and will inform them of your reminder.

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